

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 ACDA-05

SAJ-01 /113 W

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R 161231Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8593

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD PFOR EG UR

SUBJECT: USSR/EGYPTIAN TRADE PROTOCOL

REF: CAIRO 12592

1. ACCRODING TO PRESS, SOVIETS SIGNED 1976 TRADE PROTOCOL WITH EGYPT ON DECEMBER 13, AT TWO-WAY TRADE VOLUME OF 320 MILLION POUNDS STERLING, VICE 360 MILLION IN 1975.

2. EGYPT WILL EXPORT COTTON (50,000 TONS), YARN (15,000 TONS), RICE (30,000 TONS), TEXTILES (16 MILLION METERS),
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CITRUS (90,000 TONS), PLUS LEATHER , WOOD PRODUCTS AND

PERFUME. USSR WILL EXPORT TIMBER (400,000 CUBIC METERS)
PLYWOOD (13,000 SQUARE METERS), NEWSPRINT (10,000 TONS),
KRAFT PAPER (6,000 TONS), COAL (500,000 TONS), PETROLEUM
PRODUCTS (276,000 TONS), INDUSTRIAL GREASES (10,000 TONS)
AND FATS (4,000 TONS).

3. COMMENT: GOE OFFICIALS ARE NOW TAKING LINE THAT
TRADE AGREEMENT WAS FOREGONE CONCLUSION, ONLY PROBLEM
BEING AMOUNTS THAT WOULD BE SET. THIS CONTRASTS WITH
PREVIOUS EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN, AMPLIFIED BY SOMEWHAT
FRANTIC SEARCH EARLIER THIS YEAR FOR ALTERNATE SOURCES OF
SUPPLY, E.G. COAL, IN CASE THINGS DID NOT WORK OUT.

4. DEBT RESCHEDULING QUESTION IS STILL UNSETTLED, SEE BELOW, BUT
WE ARE INFORMED THAT MATTERS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED SO THAT SOVIETS
WILL AGAIN HAVE A TRADE BALANCE IN THEIR FAVOR AT END OF 1976.
THIS WILL RESULT FROM JUGGLING ACTUAL DELIVERIES AS OPPOSED
TO AMOUNTS SPECIFIED IN THE PROTOCOL. NOW THAT PRESSURE
APPEARS TO BE OFF, WE HAVE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN
DETAILS AS TO AMOUNTS, VALUES, ETC. FIGURE FOR TOTAL
TRADE GIVEN ABOVE APPEARS MORE REALISTIC THAN EARLIER
REPORT (REFTEL), BUT WE ARE NOT YET CERTAIN.

5. DEBT QUESTION IS TO BE PURSUED IN FURTHER TALKS AT
EXPERT LEVEL, PRESS SYAS, BUT IT WOULD MORE LIKELY BE
AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL GIVEN NATURE OF ISSUES INVOLVED. EACH
SIDE IS FAIRLY WELL INFORMED, BY NOW, ON VIEWS OF OTHER.
AS MATTERS NOW STAND, EGYPTIANS APPEAR TO HAVE ACHIEVED A
DE FACTO MORATORIUM.
EILTS

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